

## Sports

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Thursday, January 30, 1992 O&amp;O

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## North looking to retain title in city tourney

North Farmington has won the Observer Volleyball Tournament the last four years, but rivals Harrison and Farmington are improved and hope to dethrone the Raiders this year.

The tournament, postponed from Jan. 15 because of snow, will take place tonight at Harrison starting at 6.

"The way we're playing right now we have our hopes up," Harrison coach Ron Shortt said. "We're looking forward to the tournament instead of dreading it."

"Julie Heist is starting to put the ball away. That's one thing we have over those teams — a little stronger hitter. If Julie has a good day, it sparks everybody."

The Hawks lost a Western Lakes Activities Association match to visiting Walled Lake Central on Monday but performed well Saturday in a tournament at Plymouth Salem.

Harrison, 1-2 in the WLAA and 8-7-5 overall, went four games with the Vikings (6-15, 3-15, 15-6, 10-15).

Basically, they just had a little more power at the net, and their defense was playing a little better," Shortt said. "Our kids have been improving, but I don't know if we were a little tired from the weekend or not."

The Hawks reached the tournament final where they lost to host Salem (15-6, 15-3). It was the first time in six years Harrison has finished as high as second in a tournament.

In pool play, the Hawks defeated Dearborn Heights Crestwood (15-5, 15-10), split with Hazel Park (15-1, 7-15) and lost to Salem (7-15, 6-15).

## volleyball

Harrison whipped Romulus (15-5, 15-6) and Novi (15-5, 15-6) in the playoffs but had to rally in each game to defeat Plymouth Canton in the semifinals (15-10, 16-14). The Hawks were down 8-1 in the first game.

Heist led the Harrison attack with 41 kills for the day. Amanda Ault had 68 assists, and Jodi Whitehead served 12 aces.

"It was a good tournament for us," Shortt said. "Hopefully, we're going to bounce back after the Walled Lake loss. We're young and improving. We're having a lot of fun with it this year."

FARMINGTON IMPROVED to 2-1 in the WLAA with a three-game win over Walled Lake Western on Monday.

The Falcons (7-4-5) rallied from a 13-2 deficit in the first game to win 18-6 and then dominated the next two, 15-6 and 15-3.

"We started real slow and all of a sudden started going," Farmington coach Julie Ingalls said. "We're trying to get more kills. We started that Saturday (in the Salem tournament), and we continued it tonight."

Debbie Schroeder served six straight points and eight overall in the first game. Sue Gibson played a solid all-around game, and Amy Sosnowski excelled as a server and setter, according to Ingalls.

The Falcons reached the tournament quarterfinals Saturday, losing to Garden City (9-15, 15-10, 13-15).



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Julie Heist of Harrison goes on the attack Monday in a dual match with Walled Lake Central. The Hawks lost in four games.

ment quarterfinals Saturday, losing to Garden City (9-15, 15-10, 13-15).

Farmington was beaten by Redford Union (15-17, 14-16) and split with Canton (15-9, 7-15) and Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard (15-10, 3-15) in pool play. The Falcons avenged their loss to RU in the first round of the playoffs (11-15, 15-11, 15-5).

Schroeder was 22-of-26 attacking with eight kills in the second RU match. She had seven kills and Re-

bekah King four in the earlier meeting.

"We started playing well in the playoffs," Ingalls said. "We have good players. It was just a matter of getting the chemistry among the players. It seemed we only played defense. That continued (Monday) and we started using an offense, too."

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## Long-awaited Observer meet making debut

By Brad Emons  
staff writer

The coaches demanded it, and now the participants are ready for the first-ever Observerland Wrestling Tournament.

Action begins Saturday at 10 a.m. at Garden City High's spacious new gymnasium.

Thirteen area schools will participate in the inaugural event, patterned after the long-standing Observerland Boys Track Relays.

"People are real excited," Garden City coach Phil Freeman said. "The coaches wanted it because it gives them a chance to see how their kids stack up against the rest of the schools in the area."

The field includes Class A, B and C schools. The only schools not entered — because of schedule commitments and conflicts — are Livonia Clarenceville, Churchill and Franklin.

The battle for the first-ever championship trophy may boil down to three teams and perhaps a fourth. "I don't look for anybody to win by a wide margin," Freeman said.

THE FRONT-RUNNER could be perennial state power Redford Catholic Central with tests coming from Plymouth Salem, Farmington and possibly Westland John Glenn.

CC's 6-8 dual meet record is deceiving, considering the Shamrocks have loaded up on a difficult schedule.

"The only team in the area I've seen is John Glenn, and I think we can stay with them," said CC coach Mike Rodriguez, who has seven state

## wrestling

## OBSERVERLAND WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

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Schedule: 9 a.m., opening meeting; 10 a.m., wrestling starts; approximately 7 p.m., final

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championships under his belt. "From what I hear it will go down to the wire between Salem and ourselves. I'd venture to say Salem is a pretty good team, otherwise they wouldn't have ventured to Ohio to face (Lake)wood St. Edward's."

CC is led by Shamrock Invitational champions Jason Krueger, a 160-pounder with only two losses, and 171-pounder Dan Kelly (21-2-1).

Kelly should get a stiff test in his weight class from once-beaten George Young of Plymouth Canton.

Salem, three-time defending Western Lakes Activities Association champions, could make a bid despite a broken leg suffered Saturday by 160-pounder Chip Barker.

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## Harrison stays in running with victory over Raiders

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

There is no substitute for height in the game of basketball. Farmington Hills Harrison proved that Tuesday night.

Senior post players Paul Gilyvdy and Mike Pesci combined for 38 points and 19 rebounds to lead the host Hawks past North Farmington 58-43.

Harrison is 3-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and tied for second place with Plymouth Salem and Walled Lake Central. Plymouth Canton leads the league at 4-0. The Hawks are 6-2 overall, the Raiders 1-3 and 3-5.

The 6-foot-8 Gilyvdy scored a game-high 23 points, grabbed nine rebounds and blocked six shots. The 6-2 Pesci contributed 16 points and led the Hawks with 10 rebounds.

Combined with 6-2 forward Duane Anderson, who had four of his seven rebounds in the final quarter, the Harrison trio dominated the backboards and contributed greatly to North having a poor shooting night.

"THAT'S OUR strength," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said of his team's size. "And you have to remember we had nine points and nine rebounds sitting on the bench because of a technicality."

Senior forward Andy Fitzpatrick didn't play because of a new rule this year that forces a player to sit out the game following one in which he has two technical fouls.

The 6-4 Fitzpatrick grabbed the rim and slapped the backboard last Friday.

"The rule was not put in for the guy who touches the bottom of the backboard," Teachman said. "It was intended for the player who argues with the referees, gets in fights or throws the ball."

Nonetheless, the Hawks survived despite what Teachman considered a sub-par performance. Harrison did hold the Raiders to 43 points but also "held" themselves to 58, he said, and didn't shoot free throws very well.

The Hawks missed 15 free throws in the second half, which was close in the fourth quarter when North only trailed by eight, while finishing the game 14-of-31.

"It wasn't a prime performance, but making free throws would have made us look a lot better," he said. "But we won and nobody else got hurt or suspended."

NORTH KEPT off the boards by the taller Hawks and having to adjust their shots frequently, made less than 27 percent of its shots (15-56). Harrison shot 45 percent (21-47). The Raiders were 8-of-20 at the line.

"If we shoot the ball well, they have to come out after us," North coach Tom Negashian said, regarding Harrison's height. "You have to give your defense credit (for the poor shooting). We've shot the ball well all year but not the last two games. We need to stay positive and keep pushing ahead."

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## Falcons denied 1st WLAA win

By Neal Zipser  
staff writer

Livonia Churchill and Farmington entered Tuesday's game against each other looking for the same thing — their first Western Lakes Activities Association victory.

Churchill coach Tom Lang and Farmington coach Penny Mikel also entered the game at Farmington seeking their first win as first-year coaches in WLAA action.

The Chargers and Lang got what they came for as Churchill outscored the Falcons in every quarter en route to a 65-51 win.

Churchill broke its seven-game losing streak and improved to 1-3 in the WLAA and 2-7 overall. Farmington lost its fifth straight, falling 0-4 and 2-4.

"We needed the win," Churchill forward Chris Owens said. "I thought it would eventually happen. I believe there were at least three games we could have won. We came in here confident and I think tonight we were quicker than Farmington."

CHURCHILL FELL behind 5-0 be-

## basketball

fore erupting for an 18-4 run that put the game out of reach. The Chargers took advantage of the Falcons' poor shooting and passing.

Farmington shot a mere 31 percent (17-of-54) from the field while Churchill converted 51 percent (23-of-45) of its attempts.

"I'm very disappointed with the way we played," Mikel said. "This was a game we had to win. I felt we could have won this game and we didn't play very well."

The Falcons failed to make a field goal in the second quarter but stayed in the game by making nine of 10 free throws. Churchill led 32-22 at halftime.

The Chargers did not commit a turnover in the third quarter and held off a Falcon surge that cut Churchill's lead to 42-34. The Chargers led 48-35 entering the final quarter. Churchill converted 11 of 15 free

throw attempts in the fourth quarter and pulled away for the victory. Farmington tried to come back with the three-point shot but made only two of 14 of its triple tries.

LANG MADE several five-man substitutions during the game, which gave seldom-used players quality time on the court.

"I haven't given up on the season, but we have a lot of players that haven't seen a lot of minutes," Lang said. "I wanted eight or nine good, solid minutes from them, but I got more than that. I want the juniors to get some experience."

"I'm very proud of the red team. We got 17 points from them, including 10 from (junior guard) Brian (Baranowski) who was our leading scorer."

Eleven of the 12 players scored for Churchill, including Owens, Brian Johnson and Keith Gulan with nine points each.

Senior forwards Brian Allersbaugh (nine rebounds) and Steve Gallagher (seven rebounds) paced Farmington with 15 and 13 points, respectively, before each fouled out.

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